SPARK GAP

Vol. 42, Issue 7, July 2025 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

On Our MARC:

Please join us Saturday, July 19th at 8 am for our monthly MARC meeting at the Johnson County REMC Community Room, 750 International Drive in Franklin. Our speaker this month will be Bryan Nehl, K0EMT who will summarize our Field Day activities this year. MARC Elections for Executive Committee members are coming up. Please consider running for an office, President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. Let Art Bleicher, WB9CHR know if you would like to be on the ballot this year no later than the August meeting (when the ballot will be closed).

Hope to see you Saturday,
73,
Tim
WC9G

CLUB DUES FOR 2025

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is $25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2025.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

Weather Ops-ervations

by KC9NJM

Long before the development of satellites, Doppler radar, and other forecasting technologies farmers and many, many others turned to almanacs for long-range views of the weather seasons ahead. For over 200 years the *Old Farmer's Almanac* has been applying its "secret formula" to give us a prediction for the upcoming year's weather. A similar publication, the *Farmer's Almanac* has likewise been employing it own formula to give us its weather prognostications since 1818. While neither will reveal their processes, they do claim high accuracy rates. With the *Old Farmer's Almanac* indicating 80.5% success for the 2019-2020 year. As you might expect, today's meteorologists view these kinds of numbers with a great deal of skepticism, especially as they struggle to land a solid 5-day forecast and viable peek at two-weeks out.

No matter what accuracy you attribute to the almanacs, many of us find it interesting to see the annual predictions for various parts of the country and more closely for Indiana. The *Old Farmer's Almanac* recently issued its look at autumn weather across the country. And while much of the US will see warmer than normal temperatures, it appears that Indiana may get a bit of a reprieve from the heat. They are indicating that Indiana will have a cool and dry fall. That might be seen as a win for those looking for relief from the steam-bath of high humidity and triple digit heat indices. For others who like the warmth of summer the prediction of a cooler fall seems to herald the coming of winter.

No matter where you stand on the forecasting value of the almanacs, its hard to argue that these two publications have not served as a source of information and entertainment. And certainly, they have maintained a readership that has lasted well over a century,

Sources: www.reference.com, WKDQ-FM Evansville, IN

July Birthdays

W1VYN - Vyn Popplewell
WU9Y - Jim Seiver
W9BAS - Bruce Shelley
KF9NF - Tom Daugherty
KE9ABY - Chris Kelly

HAM of the month Joe Walsh – KB6ACU

An ARRL Life Member and long-time radio amateur, Walsh personally has been a strong supporter and advocate of ARRL and Amateur Radio, and his ham shack is just as impressive as his home recording studio. “I want to give back to the hobby that has given me so much enjoyment,” he said.

A POTA procedural proposal

By Dan KB6NU9

A swallow's nest attached to the picnic shelter where we operated from this morning. Mama swallow was not happy with me taking this picture. In fact, she dive-bombed me earlier. She had at least three chicks in the nest.

I often do POTA activation's with two friends: Paul, KW1L and Rick, K8BMA. We almost always operate CW. On a recent activiation, Paul asked if there was a way to do a joint activation like many phone operators do. If you hunt phone POTA activators, they often say something like, "Stand by for a second operator," then the second operator gets on and makes their contact.

This rarely happens on CW. In fact, I don't think that there's a standard procedure for doing this, and sending something like "QRX for a second operator" probably wouldn't' work. For one thing, it's too long to send. For another, many POTA CW ops are not very experienced and probably wouldn't know what QRX means.

Even so, Paul and I wanted to be able to set up one station and then make contacts jointly. Paul emailed Tom, K4SWL, if he had any suggestions. Tom wrote back, suggesting a possible way to do this, but added, "I'll be honest. I think that this would throw off most hunters."

Paul and I tended to agree with him, but we thought we'd give it a go anyway. This morning, Paul, Rick, and I headed out to the Pinckney State Recreation Area (US-3322). After getting set up, I suggested that what we might do is for me to spot myself and call CQ, and after getting a reply somehow indicate that a second operator, and therefore QSO, was available. The first transmission was pretty much standard, but after the hunter replied, I would send something to indicate that Paul was also there. Here's an example:

CQ CQ POTA KB6NU KB6NU POTA

W1ABC

W1ABC 599 MI BK

599 MA BK

TU NW W1ABC DE KW1L 599 MI BK (This is the crucial step. With this transmission, we're telling the hunter that there's a second station that want a contact, too.)

If the hunter responded with an exchange, we counted that as a contact for KW1L. If not, we didn't count it.

We experimented with slight variations of this format. For example, instead of just a single KW1L, we sent it twice. If neither transmission elicited a response, I would give another call, simply:

W1ABC DE KW1L 599 MI

This would sometimes get them to reply. Another trick that we tried was to slow down when sending that final transmission, thinking that that would be a clue that there was a second operator present. That seemed to work sometimes.

Overall, a little less than half the time, the hunter would get the idea and realize that we had a second operator. The other times, the hunters either didn't understand what we were sending or tuned away after their transmission and didn't hear ours. If the latter, it's a shame because they could have had a second contact.

We made 12 contacts for Paul, after which, he decided to call it quits. So, he now has his first legal activation under his belt!

Classic cover from 1967 "73" Magazine spoofing Mad Magazine.

2025 Hamfests List

07/19/2025 - Auburn Hamfest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`

- Location: Auburn, IN
- Address: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum
- 1600 Wayne Street
- Auburn, IN 46706
- Talk-In: 147.015+ 141.3pl
- Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association
- Website: http://w9ou.org

07/20/2025 - Van Wert Hamfest

- Location: Van Wert, OH
- Address: Van Wert County Fairground
- 1055 S. Washington Street
- Van Wert, OH 45891
- Talk-In: 146.850-
- Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club
- Website: http://w8fy.org

07/26/2025 - East Central Indiana HAMFEST

- Location : Jay County Fairgrounds Portland, IN
- Address: 806 E Votaw St

- Portland, Indiana 47375
- Talk-In: 147.300+ 127.3pl
- Website: ECIHamfest

08/02/2025 - Elkhart East Hamfest

- Location: Elkhart, IN
- Address: Northern Indiana Event Center’s Orthwein Pavilion
- 21565 Executive Pkwy
- Elkhart, IN 46514
- Talk-In: 147.330+ PL 131.8
- Sponsor:
- Website: https://elkharteasthamfest.com/

08/09/2025 - Cincinnati Hamfest

- Location: Owensville, OH
- Address: Clermont County Fairgrounds
- 1000 Locust St.
- Owensville, OH 45160
- Talk-In: 147.345+ PL 123.0
- Sponsor: Milford ARC
- Website: https://CincinnatiHamfest.org

08/09/2025 - Hendricks County Tailgate Fest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`
- Location: Avon, IN

- Address: Avon United Methodist Church
- 6850 E. US Hwy 36
- Avon, IN 46123
- Talk-In: 145.130- PL88.5
- Sponsor: Ham Emergency Radio Operations

08/10/2025 - ARANCI Hamfest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`
- Location: Lake Village, IN
- Address: Lake Village Community Center
- 9728 North 300 West
- Lake Village, IN 46349
- Talk-In: 145.330- pl 131.8
- Sponsor: ARANCI

10/11/2025 - Hoosier Hills Hamfest

- Location: Bedford, IN
- Address: Lawrence County 4-H Fairgrounds
- 11265 US-50
- Bedford, IN 47421
- Talk-In: 146.73- PL/107.2
- Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club
- Website: https://hoosierhillshamfest.com

10/18/2025 - Shelbyville Tailgate

- `NEEDS Confirmed`

- Location: Shelbyville, IN
- Address: Shelby County Fairgrounds
- 500 Frank St
- Shelbyville, IN 46176
- Talk-In: 145.48- 88.5pl
- Website: https://brvars.com/

11/15-16/2025 - Ft Wayne Hamfest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`

- Location: Fort Wayne, IN
- Address: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
- 4000 Parnell Ave
- Fort Wayne, IN 46805
- Talk-In: 146.88-
- Website: http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm

11/29/2025 WVARA Turkeyfest

- Location: Brazil, IN
- Address: Clay County Fairgrounds
- 6550 N SR 59
- Brazil, IN
- Talk-In 146.685- 151.4PL

- Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA
- Website: W9UUU.org

…..... Thanks Chris, KQ9Y

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM of each month at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:
Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Art Bleicher – WB9CHR
Club P.I.O. : Rhonda Curtis – WS9H

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

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Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.

Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

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